

Executive Registry
77-3686

9 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Turner  
FROM : Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence <sup>RL</sup>  
SUBJECT : Key Intelligence Questions

1. The President's remarks this afternoon suggest that he does not fully understand the purpose of the KIQs. They do not represent our priorities, which are embodied in DCID 1/2, but rather those subjects of high priority upon which Community attention needs to be focused in the short run.

2. Had we had time to complete the scheduled program, I would have said:

National Intelligence is both the end and the beginning of the work that we have described to you today. It is the end because it is the summation of all of our work in the estimates and assessments that underpin national policy-making at the NSC level. It is the beginning because after each estimate is completed we review it to identify the most critical gaps and weaknesses in our information. We then devise a strategy for collection and analysis that will enable us to prepare a better estimate the next time it is called for. The KIQs serve to notify the Community that we consider these the most important gaps and weaknesses. They do not represent our overall priorities.

25X1 3. [redacted] people have seen this and concur.

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NSC review(s) completed.

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ICS-77-6211

MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Stansfield Turner, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence

25X1 FROM: [redacted]  
Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community

SUBJECT: Key Intelligence Questions

1. This afternoon, the President expressed concern for the adequacy of the Intelligence Community's ability to identify the principal intelligence problems facing national decision makers. Specifically, he criticized the DCI Key Intelligence Questions for FY 1977 (KIQ).

2. The KIQ's are not intended to identify the highest priority intelligence questions, nor do they serve as a comprehensive list of topical issues. Those are expressed in another document, the attachment to DCI Directive 1/2, currently under revision. The KIQ's are highly selective, current critical questions for special operational attention. The deliberate restriction of the list to less than a score of questions necessitates that key problems currently receiving substantial attention or which do not lend themselves to Community action beyond that already under way, be omitted.

3. You may be interested in the attached correlation table of KIQ and current PRM topics. The table indicates that the lists are not very dissimilar, hence the selection of KIQ's generally approximates the selection of policy issues for NSC review.

4. For some time members of the Community have expressed dissatisfaction with the "KIQ" title, believing it a bit of a misnomer. Other titles have been suggested, such as "salient questions," which may be more suitable. We currently have this under review in the ad hoc interagency group on priorities. We will be coming forth with recommendations in the near future.

25X1 5. [redacted] is prepared to brief you on the entire Planning System, of which the KIQ's are a part. I believe that the briefing is quite important to a full understanding of the matter and would be of considerable value to you before you meet with the President again.

*Signed*

Attachment  
As stated

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